

THE  
**B E T S Y**  
SOUTH BEACH

**CELEBRATE NATIONAL POETRY MONTH & O, MIAMI 2014 AT THE BETSY-SOUTH BEACH:  
Featuring Poets Laureate, Literary Libations, Soapbox Readings, Projected Poetry and More**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**(MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA)** In honor of National Poetry Month (April 2014) and in continued partnership with O, Miami, the month long festival that celebrates poetry throughout Miami Dade County, **The Betsy South Beach** has a full slate of events and interactive activities on tap that embrace the power of poetry. As host hotel for O, Miami, The Betsy provides accommodations for out of town wordsmiths and presents wide ranging programs that are free and open to the public, such as readings, salons, parties and the annual Poetry Broadside Exhibition, which this year will be in Betsy's new arts annex at The Carlton. BLT, Betsy's culinary partner, has created a Literary Cocktail for the month called, *Parnassian Punch*.

The Betsy **Writer's Room**, created as part of the hotel's commitment to cultivating arts and literature will host Poet Laureate Robert Haas and National Book Award Winner Nikky Finney for readings at New World Symphony and as special guests at their Third Annual Poetry Dinner at The Betsy, which this year also serves as a fundraising event for O, Miami. Other Writers Room guests during the month include award-winning novelist Amy Tan, Executive Editor of Poetry Magazine, Don Share, and Sylvia Plath Scholar Cathy Bowman, as well as NY Times Writer Daniel Jones and Novelist Cathi Hanauer. Opera Librettist Wayne Koestenbaum and Composer Michael Daugherty will also be in residence during the month.

**APRIL 2 - On Monday, April 2nd, at 8 PM Betsy invites the public to its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 'Under the Influence' Reading, hosted by MacArthur Genius Award Winner and FIU Faculty Poet, Campbell McGrath.** Also reading will be Cathy Bowman of Indiana University, as well as two poets from the faculty of University of Miami. Jaswinder Bolina and Mia Leonin. Each poet will read works of their own, and of poet's whose messages influenced them in their careers. The evening continues on rooftop, where the literary community will hold an official toast to the kick off of O, Miami 2014, hosted by program founder, P. Scott Cunningham.

**APRIL 5 - The Philanthropy program at The Betsy will underwrite it's Third Annual Poetry Supper, on April 5 at 4:30 PM in BLT-Steak,** with the goal this year of raising funds to sustain O, Miami and its partner organization (and fake university) University of Wynwood, both founded and directed by local poet, P. Scott Cunningham. Poets in Residence Robert Haas and Nikky Finney will be special dinner guests, with tickets still available for purchase through omiami.org. Tickets to this event include special seating at New World Center for The Haas/Finney Poetry reading that follows, at 8 PM.

**APRIL 7 - Debuting on April 7 and continuing on Mondays at 5 PM throughout the month is Betsy's Soapbox Poetry Program** The weekly event, fashioned after London's Hyde Park Soapbox', features short readings for beach-goers on the Northeast Corner of the Betsy Terrace. Poets from all generations and stages of their careers will read in informal sessions that will be photographed. Some will be recorded and become part of a digital archive, accessible on line. To become a featured reader, contact [artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com](mailto:artsandculture@thebetsyhotel.com)

**APRIL 16 -30 - Betsy's annual Poetry Broadside Exhibition will open on April 16** with this year's gallery located in The Carlton, located directly behind The Betsy at 1433 Collins Avenue. On view for the next several months will be broadsides created by local designers responding to the poetry of global poets whose lives and work are linked to Florida, past and present. Also exhibited will be broadsides of poetry by Hyam Plutzik, the father of Betsy owner Jonathan Plutzik, a three-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry.

**APRIL 16- 30 - On consecutive Wednesdays and Thursday evenings during the month – starting on April 16 – Betsy will host poetry projections in the alleyway between The Betsy and The Carlton Hotels.** Betsy Patrons who visit from 8 to 11 PM for weekly Live (Mostly Jazz) Music are invited to enjoy music, and then contemplate works projected in the alley as they venture onto The Carlton to enjoy the entire broadsides collection.

**APRIL 17-20- Don Share, noted American poet and Executive Editor of Poetry Magazine, the largest poetry journal in the world, will be an artist in residence at Betsy from April 17 to 20,** bringing his wide ranging creative and community-building skills to our region. While in town, he will present several different community programs in cooperation with O, Miami, including a translation workshop and an event for high school literary editors at YoungArts.

**APRIL 25- On Saturday, April 25, at 6 PM Betsy will host the kick off of LitCrawl, O, Miami's citywide party to champion poetry in places where people can mix and mingle, and 'throw a few back',** with Award-winning Novelist Russell Banks, and Globally-recognized Poet Chase Twichell as hosts. BLT-at-The-Betsy's 2014 literary libation (Parnassian Punch) will be available for purchase, as the party continues out into Betsy's adjacent alleyway for a C'Haiku session hosted by Jenni Person, founder of Next at 19<sup>th</sup>, and then another special program hosted by Andrea Askowitz, founder of LipService. *(This event will double as a tasting party for Betsy's Literary, Parnassian Punch, that was created by David Weiss, the GM of BLT-Steak, Betsy's culinary partner, especially for O, Miami 2014.)*

**APRIL 25 – On Saturday, April, at 7 PM, Betsy will invite the community to convene in the alleyway, adjacent to Betsy, between Ocean Drive and Collins Avenue, for a poetry meet-up, led by Jenni Person, founder and director of Next at 19<sup>th</sup>,** a program known for 'moving Jewish Culture Forward'. CHAIku applies Queer Theory's central idea of indeterminate identity to address and engage Jewish culture and community to reflect that a vast pool of expressions of Jewish identity. Participating writers develop 3 original Haikus that in some way touch on their relationship to Jewish identity. For the performance, each person enters the performance area and finds his or her own space. Then the readings will begin and proceed one by one.

**Parnassian Punch – BLT at The Betsy's Literary Drink -- for National Poetry Month 2014**

Whether a modern day rhapsode or simply a lover of limericks, this modern take on a classic fish house punch will stoke your poetic fire. One sip will awaken your dormant Donne ... your hibernating Homer ... your sleeping Sappho.

Celebrate the O, Miami Poetry Festival and National Poetry Month with a pint of Parnassian Punch, available all month long at BLT Steak at the Betsy Hotel.

2 oz Appleton rum  
1oz courvoisier vsop cognac  
1/4oz massenez crème de peche  
1/4 oz maraschino luxardo  
1 oz cold brewed green tea  
1/2 oz fresh squeezed lemon juice  
1/2 oz simple syrup

Mix all and pour over ice in a pint glass.  
Top with a splash of champagne for added inspiration.

(Created by David Weiss at BLT-Steak at The Betsy, April 2014)

**About The Betsy**

The Betsy South Beach is a boutique hotel located on world-renowned Ocean Drive that embraces culture, arts and philanthropy through a wide range of events with ongoing events under the auspices of PACE, a Philanthropy, Arts, Culture, and Education Program with a very special focus on poetry and literature. Each room at the hotel has a small library of poetry and other books, and a poetry bookmark is placed on each guest's pillow every night. Over the past five years, the hotel has become a catalyst for energized discourse, innovative thinking, and charity, and has worked with over 250 nonprofit partners in the region. The Betsy South Beach is a Knight Foundation Arts Challenge Grant recipient for its Writers Room project that has hosted more than 100 writers since its' opening. The Betsy is the official host hotel for O, Miami 2014, and is also the only *Forbes' 4 star, 4 Diamond, AAA-rated Boutique Hotel in Florida*. The hotel is located at **1440 Ocean Drive**, in Miami Beach. [Thebetsyhotel.com](http://Thebetsyhotel.com) // [betsywritersroom.com](http://betsywritersroom.com)

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